Editorial Note

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For an elucidation of the process and mechanism of hominid origins, a research project team, Japan-Kenya Expedition, was organized by S. Ishida and me with advice of Mr. Richard Leakey, Director/Chief Executive of the National Museums of Kenya and Prof. Junichiro Itani of Kyoto University, at Faculty of Human Sciences, Osaka University in 1979. Field surveys focussing on discoveries of Miocene hominoids and geological and palaeontological analyses of the palaeo-environments of the hominoids have been conducted in Kenya since 1980. The first field survey was in Kirimun area, and the results were published from Osaka University in 1982. The second field survey was in the Samburu Hills and Nachola area in 1982. With consent of the Editorial Board, Shiro Ishida, Martin Pickford and I edited this supplementary issue to publish a part of results of the second field survey and analyses of the materials from the field.

The second field survey (July to October, 1982) was directed by me and conducted by Shiro Ishida of Kyoto University, Hiromi Mitsushio of Kochi University, Takeshi Makinouchi of Meijo University, Takaaki Matsuda of Himeji Institute of Technology, Takehiro Koyaguchi of University of Tokyo, Hideo Nakaya of Kyoto University, Martin Pickford of National Museums of Kenya and Yoshihiko Nakano of Osaka University. Mr. Kiptalam Cheboi assisted the expedition for collecting fossil specimens in the field. Yoshinari Kawamura of Aichi University of Education and Masayuki Torii of Kyoto University participated in the palaeontological analysis and age examination respectively in 1983–1984. Mr. Misha Rahimtulla and Miss Akemi Kashiwaya assisted the expedition as camping managers in 1984.

The most fascinating event in the second field survey was the discovery of a large hominoid fossil. This discovery has contributed not only to fill information gap between *Australopithecus afarensis* and *Kenyapithecus wickeri* in Africa, but also to the study of hominoid divergence and hominoid origins. In addition, the expedition has collected a large number of vertebrate fossils including large mammals and anthropoids and also geological information and rock samples of the late Miocene in Kenya. The whole results of the second survey will be published later elsewhere. I like to note that the third field survey will be conducted in the Samburu Hills and Nachola area in this summer.

We express our hearty thanks to the following institutions which offered us various help during the research: National Museums of Kenya, National Council for Science and Technology, Office of President, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and Office of Samburu District, Republic of Kenya; Embassy of Japan in Kenya and Japan Society for Promotion of Science.

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Hidemi Ishida
March 20, 1984